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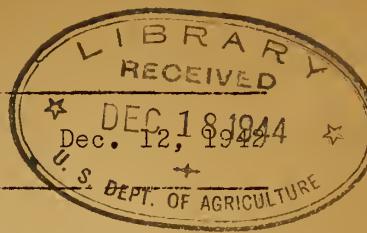


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Administration

No. 46

"AMA WAR BOARD" Letter Wash. D.C.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION ADMINISTRATION: AMA State WB members no doubt are aware that this is new name of agency under reorganization of USDA in line with Presidential order giving Secty Wickard "full responsibility for and control over the Nation's food program." While it is still too early to say much about how reorganization will affect AMA it is apparent that it will mean much greater responsibility. Unofficially, it is opinion of observers here that expansion of Food Distribution Administration will be along lines that now exist in AMA rather than disrupt it with drastic changes. USDA War Board here was streamlined by Secty Wickard in reorganization order, but he said:

"What effect, if any, the changes in the Departmental War Board at the Washington level will necessitate in the Department's field set-up has not been determined. For the time being, the Department's administrative set-up at regional, State, and county levels will function without change."

Various commodity branches of former AMA already are studying products that come under their jurisdiction to determine if rationing is needed or what other steps should be taken to assure equitable distribution.

Further developments in situation will be covered in future letters.

FIELD PURCHASE OPERATIONS: Purchases during past week (Dec. 3-Dec. 10) included: Cabbage, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  tons, US No. 1 grade at \$13 per ton in New York; apples, 511 bu. purchased in Connecticut; and 660 bu. in Utah, also 1,596 boxes purchased in Washington. All purchases made at \$1.25. Pineapple, 6,071 crates, US No. 2 grade purchased in Puerto Rico. Total apple purchases to date, Dec. 10, amount to 2,279,315 bu.

PEANUT PROBLEM: In operation of peanut marketing program this year, problems were encountered that planning probably could eliminate next year. Some of these problems, briefly were: attempting to grow peanuts on unfavorable soil, growing of one or two acres per farm which in many instances proved uneconomical to harvest and market and production of as little as 50 to 75 acres per county in new areas which made it extremely difficult and expensive to provide necessary marketing facilities. When plans are laid by WBs for 1943 production of peanuts, it is recommended that field representatives of FDA Oilseed Section be consulted so that concentrated production on suitable growing land can be planned. This would increase possibility of getting adequate harvesting machinery, insure better markets and mean better prices to producers.

VICTORY FOOD SPECIAL: Dry edible beans have been approved as VFS nationally during January 18 thru 23. Crop this year is largest in history, ample to meet current requirements, and still provide for good carrover.

ADMINISTRATOR HENDRICKSON will address Processors Conference (Nat'l Canners Assn) in Chicago on December 12 and will cover "Negro's role in Food Production" in speech at Tuskegee Institute on December 16.

HOG MARKETINGS: The big hog market run in the corn belt, expected to be heaviest in history, is now getting underway. It is starting 6 to 8 weeks later than was anticipated. During the first 8 to 10 weeks of the marketing year, supplies showed only a slight increase over the same period last year, despite the estimated 25 percent increase in hog production. Since mid-November, however, marketings have picked up sharply over year ago and in early December were running 15 to 30 percent larger than for the same period last year. For week ended December 5, slaughter at 27 centers totaled 1,200,000 head, slightly exceeding the peak week of December, 1939, when marketings were largest in many years. There is no indication from way market run is going now that Permit System will be put into effect before January at the earliest, if needed at all.

PURCHASES OF SOFT OR OILY PORK will be made by FDA (Food Distribution Administration) for first time since inauguration of L-T program. This will open FDA purchases to packers handling hogs which are fed on oily feeds such as soybean and peanut cake and meal. Purchases will be made of special family mess pork from soft or oil hogs prepared in establishments where Federal inspection is maintained.

PUERTO RICAN FOOD DISTRIBUTION program is working well according to President Manos-Marin of the Puerto Rican Senate. In recent talk to Branch Chiefs while visiting Washington, President Manos-Marin was very enthusiastic about good job being done in Caribbean area.